

[21 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the number of persons found involved/arrested in that area during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Though no incident of sale of illicit liquor (hooch) has come to the notice of Tilak Nagar Police Station, some cases of sale of liquor illegally smuggled from neighbouring states have been detected by the local police.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Tilak Nagar Police Station have arrested 228 persons in the year 1999 and 225 persons in the year 2000 in connection with illegal sale of liquor.

Releasing of Dr. Rajkumar by Veerappan

2769. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the true story about Veerappan releasing Kannada film star Dr. Rajkumar and his associates; and

(b) how long are we going to take to arrest the brigand and put an end to this unfortunate chapter in our recent history of Law and Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Public Order and 'Police' are State subjects and therefore maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments. It is for the State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in the States. As per information furnished by the State Government, Dr. Rajkumar, Kannada film star was kidnapped by Veerappan on July 30 night from his farmhouse at Gaajanur in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. He was released from captivity by Veerappan on 15.11.2000.

As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, immediately after the release of Dr. Raj Kumar, 'Operation

Jungle Storm -II' was launched by the Special Task Force of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, assisted by the BSF companies provided by the Central Government for nabbing Veerapan. Combined onslaught of the STF and BSF compelled Verrappan to run from his familiar territory to a new area namely Boluvampatti Reserved Forests in Coimbatore Distt. and Walayar Reserved Forests in Palghat District of Kerala. The gang was sighted on 02.02.2001 upon which a brief encounter took place with the policy party. Unable to withstand the police firing, Veerappan and his gang escaped in the forests leaving their personal belongings. Maran, who is the Chief of TNLA and a prominent member of Veerappan's gang was arrested by the STF on 15.02.2001 from place called Seethaivanam in the Boluvampatti reserve forests of Coimbatore district, A massive man-hunt is on by the STF to nab the remaining fugitives. The State Government has, however, informed that no time-frame can be given to complete the operation.

Threat to Country's Security and Economy due to Unchecked Illegal Migrants

2770. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Supreme Court observations made recently on a public interest petition regarding threat to country's security and economy with unchecked illegal migration of foreign citizens to the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study with regard to the threat country's security and economy in the light of the Supreme Court observations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?